



P-3959P1

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

D. Lawrence
#61a
7-31-02

Patent Application

Applicant: Dicesare et al.

Serial No.: 09/727,282

Group Art Unit: 7143

Filing Date: November 30, 2000

Examiner: Quan, E

Title: Device and Method for Separating Components of a Fluid Sample

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated April 10, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 12, insert the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of, and claims priority from U.S. patent application serial number 09/454,988 filed December 3, 1999, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial number 60/110,934 filed December 5, 1998.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4 and 11, rewrite claims 1, 10, and 12, and add new claim 16, as follows:

1. (amended) An assembly for enabling separation of a fluid sample into a formed phase with a relatively high density and a liquid phase with a relatively low density, said assembly comprising:

a tube having a closed bottom, an open top and a cylindrical sidewall extending therebetween;

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